

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 01649 171016Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 L-03 CG-00 DOTE-00 /031 W
-----029123 171312Z /42
R 170916Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8211
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 1649

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EWWT, MOPS, CB, VN
SUBJ: FIRING ON MERCHANT SHIP GATEWAY CITY

REF: STATE 008840

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED ATTACK BY FIRE ON USS GATEWAY CITY WITH SHIP OFFICERS JANUARY 15, 1978.
2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT BY THE VESSEL TO THE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION FOLLOWING THE ATTACK.
BEGIN QUOTE: AT 1722 HOURS LOCAL TIME ZONE DISCRPTION MINUS SEVEN ZD 7 VESSEL WAS FIRED UPON BY UNKNOWN NATIONALITY SMALL BOAT APPROXIMATELY 40 FEET LONG WITH SMALL CALIBER AUTOMATIC WEAPONS. POSITION AT TIME OF FIRST FIRING WAS LATITUDE 7 DEGREES 50 MINUTES NORTH LONGITUDE 104 DEGREES 24 MINUTES EAST. CLOSE AT LAND WAS VIETNAMESE ISLAND HON KHOAI BEARING 037 DEGREES TRUE DISTANCE 44 MILES. VESSEL TOOK IMMEDIATE EVASIVE ACTION AND RECEIVED TOTAL OF FOUR FIRINGS. UNKNOWN VESSEL ACTIVELY PURSUED FOR 10 MINUTES AND REVERSED COURSE AT 1732 GATEWAY CITY RESUMED NORMAL COURSE AT THAT TIME. NO HITS RECEIVED. END QUOTE.

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3. SHIP OFFICERS (SECOND MATE AND RADIO OFFICER) INDICATED NO PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TAKEN OF THE ATTACKER. THE OFFICERS SAID THAT TOTAL NUMBER OF SHOTS FIRED WAS APPROXIMATELY 15-20 AND THE WEAPON APPEARED TO BE BROWN-ING AUTOMATIC RIFLE (BAR) AS OPPOSED TO A FIXED DECK GUN. ONLY THREE INDIVIDUALS WERE SEEN UPON THE VESSEL WHICH HAD THE APPEARANCE OF BEING A VIETNAMESE VESSEL.

SECOND MATE SAID HE WAS CERTAIN THAT THE VESSEL WAS
NOT THAI GIVEN ITS CONFIGURATION PLUS THE PROXIMITY
TO VIETNAME, PROBABLY NOT CAMBODIAN. OFFICERS SAID THEY
SAW NO FISHING GEAR ABOARD THE VESSEL WHICH, AT ITS CLOSEST
CAME TO WITHIN 3/4 OF A MILE TO THE GATEWAY CITY.

DECON 1-17-79
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHIPS, GATEWAY CITY USS, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition Reason:
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